

# palestine perspectives

DECEMBER 1980

PER DIV.

JAN 22 1981

NYPL

VOL. III, NO. 8

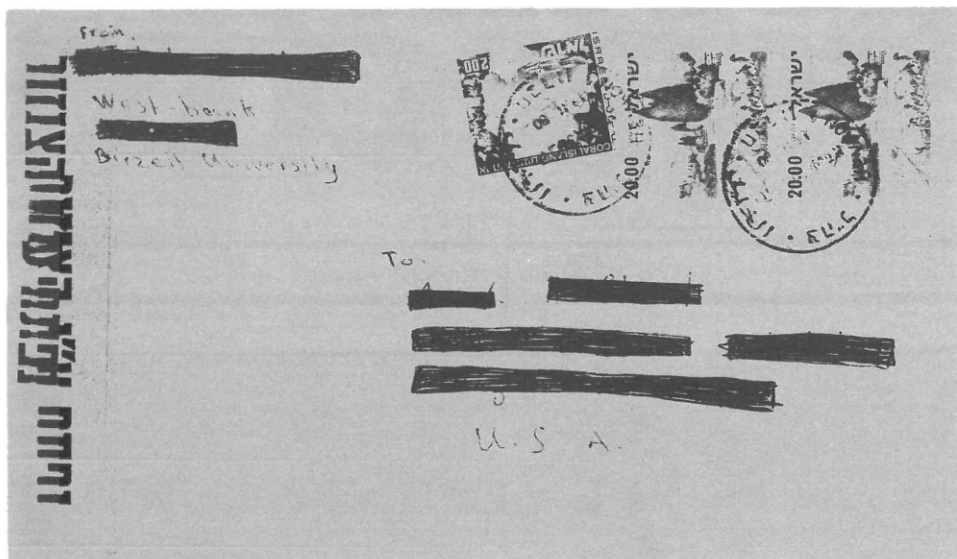


PALESTINE WILL WIN

ثورة حتى النصر



## In Israel, Decline of Reason and Humanity



*Private letter opened and taped shut. Tape reads "opened by Israeli censorship."*

The very business of rational commentary grows unsteady before the enormous barbarities and racism that Israel has degenerated into practicing in recent months as a military occupying power in the West Bank and Gaza in its unsuccessful efforts to subdue one and a half million Palestinians into a state of abject submission.

Not very many in the West, and fewer still in Israel, have asked or pressed home the question that the more Israeli occupation fails (inevitably) to subjugate the people, the more this occupation degenerates further and further into blind, frustrated and inhuman practices.

There is no more stringent a test of this degeneration than the recent events on the West Bank. Whether it be in the closing down of universities, of art galleries and folk festivals, or in the extraordinary scenes of shooting down unarmed students and the deportation of mayors, the deterioration of Israel's reason and humanity is unfaltering. Put very simply, Israel is no longer (if it has ever been) a rational entity. For how else could one describe an entity that, in the span of a few days, shoots, arrests, tear gasses, beats up and holds without trial dozens of students; arrests and charges with crimes foreign journalists trying to report on the scene; holds in jail two prominent Palestinian mayors trying to appeal an earlier midnight deportation to Lebanon, and then expels them again; closes down an art exhibition because it is showing paintings with a Palestinian theme, and a university because it puts on a

Palestinian cultural festival; and weeks before, actually introduces a law (in the Knesset) that makes it a crime, punishable by imprisonment, for any Palestinian to display the Palestinian flag, wear attire with Palestinian legends displayed on it or sing national songs?

Ironically (and it is always ironic to contemplate the interaction of oppressor and oppressed), all of this is simply mutilating the very humanity of the Israelis as a people, transforming them into a frightened, insecure, paranoid people, unable to understand or respond to reason. Accumulated over a period of 13 years of occupation, the destructive spasms by Israel as an occupying power, its blind need to lunge out at the Palestinian population, have merely triggered in its very body politic instincts of irrational, pathetic racism — and racism is always irrational and pathetic.

Consider the following statement, characteristic of many, made by an Israeli soldier, who had "served" in the West Bank, to Professor Israel Shahak, president of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, a statement that Shahak quoted in a paper delivered November 21 at the AAUG conference in Boston:

"Our unit participated in imposing curfew on several places. Wherever there was a curfew, two groups would pass from house to house, supposedly to search. In fact they hardly searched and the aim was, rather, to beat, to frighten and to humiliate. Only a few soldiers avoided beating the people and breaking property and they were usually mocked by the others. In a very few cases,

when one or two officers refrained from committing these acts, the whole group avoided assaulting the inhabitants.

Typical acts committed by the soldiers were to deliberately destroy property during "searches" and especially to ruin food by throwing sand into the flour or sugar. Some soldiers used to piss into cooking oil or on flour sacks. Merely to throw food on the floor was considered a moderate act. Several soldiers were especially "good" at demolishing beds, tearing the blankets and cushions; they especially enjoyed the sight of the flying feathers.

I didn't see or hear of a search that was not accompanied by beating. The extent of the beating was left to the free choice of the "searchers". Usually they started in the first houses by beating all the men and the older children, and even pushing and slapping the women. Later they would grow tired and so would beat the inhabitants less, but if one made a remark or asked for something it would usually cause a storm of beating."

No one, it seems, is capable of imposing rational shape to the fierce disorder of Israel's experiment as a "state" and practices as an occupying power. No one can impute reason to Israel's behavior. Accumulated moment by moment, year by year, incident by incident, this behavior is directly related to the decline of the rational in Israeli's habits of life.

In the end, the occupier oppresses only himself. And dies a slow death, as Israel is doing today. It's victims, all along struggling to be free, are in fact the victors.

## Letters to the Editor

We wish to express our deepest heartfelt sympathy to the family of Doctor Fayez Sayegh and to the Palestinian people. For those of us who were privileged to know him as a friend, there was no warmer or truer friend. For those of us who identified with his cause, there was no more articulate or loyal spokesman for that cause. We shall all miss him and we are all better people for having known him and his good work for the cause of humanity and for peace and justice. We shall dedicate ourselves further to achieve what tragically Doctor Sayegh was not able to see in his lifetime, full recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, political independence and statehood.

F. Sams, President NAAA

We must extend the Human Rights principles to all Palestinians. To date, President Carter has failed to acknowledge the urgency of the Palestinians. His failure to do so invalidates his "Human Rights" actions to date. The time is ripe for all real Americans to recognize this "Cry in the Wilderness."

President Carter has either stuck his head in the sand or looked the other way; rather than recognize the daily terror which exists in the lives of most Palestinians.

We must meet this challenge head-on. We must come to their aid. Their plight is even more desperate due to the massive split in the Arab camp. We are the only Nation who can come to their aid in their desperate hour of need.

I have personally taken up the cause of the Palestinians. I'm confident that most Americans in the mainstream of the country in time will answer this call.

Very best regards,

V. Boykin

I recently received my October issue of 'Palestine Perspectives.' In the magazine was a small article and a supplement about mayors Milhem and Qawasmeh. I was curious as to the status of the two mayors. I was wondering if they are still in the Israeli detention center and if there was any word as to the result of their hearings.

"I was very angry to hear about the fate of the two men because I saw on the CBS news that they were allowed to return to the West Bank. To an average American, who does not know about the horrible treatment the Palestinians receive in Israel and the Occupied territories," it would appear as if Israel was doing a good deed by permitting the mayors to return.

M. Ward

Orient, Ohio

I have very much appreciated receiving copies of "Palestine Perspectives." The copies I have received will be placed in a library (with other books and papers I have relevant to the Palestinian issue) of an ecumenical civil human rights group. They have become very supportive.

You may also be interested to know that a Palestine Human Rights Campaign has been formed in Australia which is based in Sydney.

J.E. Caulder

Australia

The Association of Arab American University Graduates strongly protests the December 10 attempted bombing of the Washington Palestine Information Office by a group called Hatikva Leumi, "National Hope". The emergence of political acts of terror against Palestinians in the United States mirrors a new campaign of Israeli terror and repression in occupied Palestine, Lebanon and elsewhere and must be stopped. We urge you to take all possible steps to protect the Palestine Information Office and Palestinian organizations and communities here and abroad.

Dr. K. Nakhleh, President AAUG

Belmont, MA 02178



## In Memoriam: Dr. Fayez Sayegh, Palestinian Writer, Lecturer, and Patriot

Dr. Fayez Sayegh, Palestinian writer, lecturer and patriot passed away Tuesday, December 9 of a heart attack.

Born in Syria and raised in Palestine, Dr. Sayegh dedicated his entire life to the Palestinian cause. Since 1965, he had been President of the Palestine Arab Congress and a member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He headed the League of Arab States offices in Washington from 1970 to 1974 and he was a member of the Palestine National Council.

At the time of his death, Dr. Sayegh was senior advisor to the UN delegation of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry having been an advisor to the Yemeni and Lebanese governments previously. Also, he served as permanent observer of the League of Arab States at the UN.

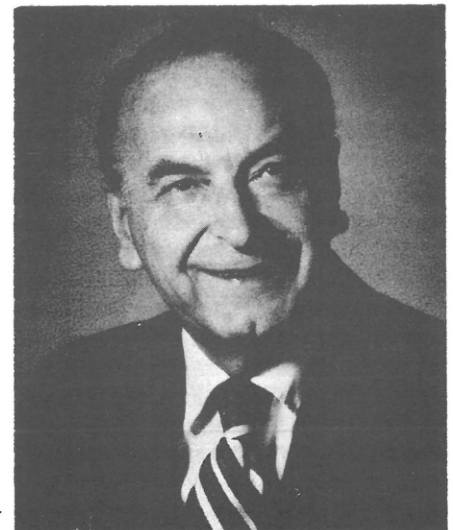
In addition to his list credits, Dr. Sayegh authored the 1975 United Nations resolution denouncing Zionism as a form of racism.

Through his work, Dr. Sayegh contributed his life to the Palestinian cause. He was truly a great Palestinian activist and leader and his death is a loss for the Palestinian nation.

In memory of her husband, Arlene Sayegh wrote:

"As Death calls out for me,  
With Him I'll travel on  
To dwell in Paradise,  
Not stark oblivion.

If Death be not unkind,  
Then He, in truth, be friend.  
He is not Death at all,  
But Life that has no end."



## West Bank Sojourn (Last of 3 parts) By: Walter Lehn

To me as a Canadian, one of the most unsettling experiences in the West Bank was a visit to Canada Park, just north of Latrun. A large sign at the entrance notes that the park was dedicated by the president of Israel on March 30, 1976, and identifies it as "a project of the Jewish National Fund of Canada," hence Canada Park. Inside the park, on a stone retaining wall, are mounted a large number of brass plates giving the names and location of the Canadian contri-

butors; the vast majority are from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. I wondered how many of the contributors knew (or cared) that the park they helped to build was in the occupied West Bank and on the site of the Palestinian village of Imwas (probable site of the biblical Emmaus), one of several villages in the area north of Latrun totally destroyed in the Israeli invasion and occupation in June 1967. But I knew, and could only feel shame that the name of my country was identified with such an enterprise. In fact the only time in my life I recall being ashamed of being a Canadian was

when I was in Canada Park in June 1978. Within the park, a road at one point has been cut through a rather sharp slope, requiring a retaining wall some hundred metres in length on one side of the road. The wall is built of cut stones, some a distinct pink in color and rough cut, others (apparently the same type of stone) are faded, look weathered and are smooth cut. These two types of stones are arranged in an artistic pattern. While walking along the wall and noticing the two differently appearing kinds of stones, one of the smooth and weathered ones caught my eye. It had an Arabic inscription carved into it, which seemed strange indeed! To make sure I had not

devout Palestinian, probably a Muslim. Such inscriptions over the doorways of houses in the West Bank, and formerly throughout Palestine, are not uncommon, and the sentence, "God is the owner," is often said in response to the question as to who is the owner of a house or other property.

As I stood and looked at the stone with the inscription, I wondered if there were other such stones, placed so that the inscriptions were not visible. It was now clear to me why some of the stones in the retaining wall were new-looking, others weathered — the latter had been



*Israeli troops arrest Arab Palestinian*

missed others, I again walked the length of the wall; there was only one with an inscription. This stone had obviously not been cut for the wall. It was longer than the others and broken at one end. Indeed part of the last letter of the inscription was missing at the broken end, though there was no question whatsoever what the inscription was: *Al-mulk lil-lah*, "the ownership belongs to God," or, more freely translated, "God is the owner." There was also no question of where this stone came from; it had been over the main entrance of a house built by a

salvaged from destroyed houses. I also wondered why this one had been placed so that the inscription was exposed. Had the stones in the wall been laid by Palestinian labourers (which was quite likely)? Had the man laying this stone placed it with the inscription facing out as a silent witness to the fact that God was the owner of the land of Canada Park, and not the Jewish people, as is true under law in Israel (and apparently also in the occupied West Bank) for property of the Jewish National Fund? Was this stone also a silent witness to the fact that the site of the park was that of a Pales-

Page 4



tinian village totally destroyed beginning on June 6, 1967?

Along the road flanking Canada Park I saw further evidence of the former village of Imwas, though I suspect I saw it only because I was walking from the park to the nearby monastery. The road is new and does not appear to coincide with the old one through the village. At one point, near the entrance to the park, a knoll has been cut through to level the road. On the adjoining embankment one can see protruding from the soil the broken ends of galvanized water pipes (about 1 cm. in diameter) and of reinforcing rods used in concrete, and even the broken edge of a tile floor. Clearly the new road surface is below the level of the floors of the former houses and has cut through the built-up area of the village. This evidence is not conspicuous; I very much doubt that anyone in a passing car would observe it.

My guide on this visit to Canada Park was a Palestinian, whom I shall call Ali, ten years of age in 1967 and then an inhabitant of Imwas. Ali told of how the Israeli troops on June 6, 1967 took the village and the surrounding area in the so-called Latrun bulge, that all the inhabitants had been ordered out of their homes — with no time or opportunity to remove anything from them — and that explosive charges were then laid and the village destroyed. There are reports, he said of some elderly and ill people refusing to leave; the house was simply dynamited with them inside. The people were ordered to leave the area and told



*Arrested Palestinian child.*

to go east; many headed for Ramallah. Ali showed me the cave, near his former home, where the family spent the night of June 6, and told how the next morning before leaving on their eastward trek his father had told him to crawl into the partially collapsed wreckage of their home to find a box with valuable papers.

There was one almost uncanny aspect to visiting Canada Park with Ali as my guide. He consistently spoke in the present tense. He would locate by the fruit trees, for example, an area where the house of a friend or relative had been, and then say: "This is the house of my uncle." At another point, he drew my attention to a cluster of large trees: "This is the school." As if for him the village and all its buildings still existed, as if psychologically he was unable to accept the fact that now there was no village, no houses, no school, no mosque, no church, not even any sign of their having been there. They had been totally and literally wiped out of existence, reminding me of Golda Meir's quip about the Palestinians: "They did not exist." Is this, I thought, what is meant by rewriting history? By creating (uncreating!) facts?

The fate of the village of Imwas is sadly not unique. A number of nearby villages, Yalu and Beit Nuba, suffered exactly the same fate; they too no

longer exist and are not found on Israeli maps, not even those purporting to provide historical information.

On the lands of the former village of Beit Nuba now stands a Jewish settlement called Mevo Horon. I went there once with a foreign journalist who wanted to visit it. As obvious foreigners — English-speaking — we were welcomed and shown around. Eventually we ended up in a cafeteria where we had coffee. While there a young woman, a resident of Mevo Horon, heard us speaking English and joined us; it turned out that she was an immigrant from the United States. My journalist companion asked her if it were true that the settlement was on the lands of a former Palestinian village, and what happened to the village; no such village was now in sight. She replied, yes, she had been told this. The village had been destroyed because the entire population (including the old women and children, I wondered?) had been terrorists. But she did not know what the name of the village had been or what had become of its inhabitants (assuming that any terrorists had been spared!). My companion then asked her about living there today: "Do you sometimes feel there are ghosts around?" "Yes," she replied, "but I try not to think of it."

I try not to think of it! Is the luxury of this option available also to the former Palestinian inhabitants of Beit Nuba?



*"Imwas" by Ibrahim Saba*

# Education is Our Right

(Interview with Dr. Hanna Nasir, Exiled President of Birzeit University)

**Q.** You are a Palestinian intellectual and a university President and you were deported by the Israeli military. Could you explain to us why and how your deportation was carried out?

It happened 6 years ago, in November of 1974, as a result of demonstrations in the Occupied territories in support of the Palestinian cause. Israel decided, apparently, to deport people like myself. In the middle of the night, in my home town, someone put me in a car, blindfolded and handcuffed me and then dropped me at the Lebanese border with four other Palestinians. There was absolutely no charges, and no trial. This style deportation is an illegal act that Israel has been taking against the Palestinian people for thirteen years.

**Q.** Could you comment on the recent Israeli decision to control higher education in the West Bank, especially at Birzeit?

Well, Israel has been preoccupied with the higher education of the Palestinian people. Concerned in the negative sense, that is. The Israelis realized that educated Palestinians are a serious threat to Israel. In their view, an educated person will think rationally and thus pose a threat to the Israelis. I do not deny that, for that is true, but it is our right to educate ourselves.

Israel decided to take strong measures against the education of the Palestinians. Previously, harassment occurred outside any legal framework until the Israelis felt they needed to legalize their harassment. In July of this year they decreed orders by which they would hinder education. The results are going to be extremely dangerous for Palestinian education and the West Bank. We have already witnessed the results at a University in Jerusalem which

was denied a permit to open under the new laws. Birzeit University was closed under the new laws. So you see, now Israel can claim its actions are taken within the framework of the law.

**Q.** What are the problems facing Birzeit University and other universities under the occupation?

Many. The first problem that we face is really occupation itself. Any person involved in education or anything else will notice that occupation simply stifles the whole operation in which he is involved. Other than that, one becomes aware of the fact that for the last thirteen years, continuous harassments are specifically directed against educational establishments. Birzeit, for example, was closed in 1973. It was again closed in 1979. It is closed right now. Many of its students have been put in jail. Many have been interrogated and some of them have been detained for years. All of these actions were taken without trial. The problems Birzeit faces are of a very serious nature and although we try to live with them, we consistently challenge the Israelis and try to destroy the repressive system they impose upon us. We are faced with some technical problems that contribute to a lack of progress. For example, we are not able to obtain Arabic periodicals and it is extremely difficult to operate a university without having access to such periodicals.

**Q.** According to the Washington Post of November 19, 1980, Dr. Baramki's daughter and other university students were shot by the Israeli military. What was your reaction when you heard this?

My reaction, of course, was that of many people. That is, great, great sympathy for the people who were physically injured

by the Israelis. The daughter of the Vice President of the university, a young girl, about 14, was passing through the area when she was shot in her leg. I saw her on television, crying and when I called her parents they said a bone had been shattered and she might need hospitalization for two months. So, it is a very bad situation when Israel is prompted to shoot at students.

**Q.** Now, you have been deported, your university is closed, some of your students were shot by the Israelis, what is your vision for the future?

First and foremost, we always look brightly at the future. In spite of the fact that we have all these problems, our courage grows. In 1974, we started with 200 students and maybe 30 faculty members. Today, we have 1600 students and 150 faculty members. Of course, new problems arise everyday and some of our students are still in jail, but our actions will not stop. We will struggle for our freedom and we will force the future to a certain extent. I think the continuous struggle, especially in the Occupied territories, is one major reason why I remain so optimistic about the future of Birzeit.

**Q.** Is there anything you would like to add, perhaps a message you would like to leave with us?

Birzeit has been a symbol of resistance and struggle and a symbol of Palestinian capability. It is very important for people to realize that even under adverse conditions we can build our institutions and building our institutions is an important dimension in terms of what we want for the future. So far, we have succeeded and I feel Birzeit is a major cornerstone in the building of a future, independent Palestinian state. That is the message I would leave.



*Music Students at Birzeit University.*



*Birzeit Students in Chemistry Laboratory.*



# Farouk Kaddoumi: "Our Cause and Future Not a Commodity"

The following is an excerpt from the statement before the 35th session of the U.N. by Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization.



*Farouk Kaddoumi with Chairman Arafat in Beirut.*

We are interested in making reference to the pending change of administration after the defeat of Carter and the accession of Reagan to the presidency, for both of them have, during the electoral Campaign turned our cause and the future of our people into a commodity in the electoral market without respect to human values, international relations and the moral values involved in such relations.

We have witnessed the consequences of Carter's policy. Suffice it to note for example that during the Carter administration Israel received 11 billion dollars in assistance out of a total of 23 billion dollars that Israel has received since its creation from the United States.

Reagan has promised us worse things still. He unjustly and unrealistically described the Palestine Liberation Organization as a terrorist organization not elected by the people. Mr. Reagan forgot, purposely so perhaps, that:

1. That the first National Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization convened in 1964 in Jerusalem, and that it was attended by elected representatives of the Palestinian people everywhere in exile.
2. The present National Council is made

up of 304 members, representing all walks of Palestinian life; they include: engineers, doctors, teachers, lawyers, workers, peasants, women, students, and representatives of popular councils in refugee camps, and Palestinian leaders. In addition, all Palestinian military and political organizations are represented in the National Council.

3. All the elected mayors and members of the mayoral councils of the towns and villages inside the occupied territories have declared their stand with the Palestine Liberation Organization as their sole legitimate representative. Several popular conventions were held and declared that the Palestine Liberation Organization was their only legitimate representative.

4. It is no accident that there is no Palestinian organization that claims to represent the Palestinian people or doubt that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the representative of that people.

5. The Palestine Liberation Organization is a full member of the League of Arab States, the Islamic Conference and the NonAligned Movement. It also has an Observer Status at the United Nations.

Regan's description of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a terrorist organization constitutes nothing more than a voice added to the chorus of the Zionist enemies in the old song which the international community views with disgust. He should have remembered that the Palestine Liberation Organization had assumed the responsibility of protecting the American citizens and the Jews in Lebanon during the Lebanese civil war. He should have remembered that the Palestine Liberation Organization had played a humanitarian role in protecting the staff and institutions of the United Nations in Lebanon. He should remember that the Palestine Liberation Organization and its leader Brother Yasser Arafat have been exerting efforts and using their good offices to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war in order to save the blood of the Iraqi and Iranian people. He should also remember that our armed struggle against the Zionists who occupy our Palestinian land is a legitimate right recognized by International Law and United Nations resolutions and by the tradition of all the peoples who were subjected to occupation, among them the peoples of Europe who were subjected to the Nazi conquest.

It would have been better for Mr. Reagan to rebel against state terrorism which Israel practices. He should denounce the terrorist crimes committed by Begin against the International Mediator Count Folke Bernadotte, and against the elected Mayors in our occupied land. Israeli state terrorism was embodied in attempts to arrest, exile and kill our elected leaders in the occupied land for no reason other than their rejection of Israeli occupation and their public statements to the effect that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It may be useful for the advisors of the President elect to help him avoid the mistake made by his predecessor, so that he may not fall prey to the illusion that there is a party capable of representing the Palestinian people or speak on their behalf other than the only legitimate leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In this connexion we have to reaffirm that we reject any solution to our question through any Arab state since Palestinian relations with any Arab state never were a cause of the Middle East crisis. Therefore, we categorically reject that such relations be considered a pre-condition for any settlement of the Middle East crisis.

## Victory Will Be Ours

*Interview with Mr. Salim Shatila, member of the Executive Committee of the Lebanese National Movement, Vice Secretary-General and one of the original founders of the Lebanese Democratic Movement, "Adel."*

**Q.** It seems Israel is perpetuating new aggression against the Lebanese and the Palestinian people. What is your explanation for this new wave of Israeli aggression?

We must always remember that Israel, according to the strategic plans of the Zionist movement, is preparing for a major attack against Lebanon in order to occupy the southern part of it. There, it expects to control the water resources of the Litani and the Wazzani rivers and then transfer them to the Negev Desert. This would enable Israel to bring another two to three million Zionists to the occupied land of Palestine.

Israel intends to liquidate, not only the Palestinian rifle but the Palestinian people as well. Israel dreams of wiping out the entire Palestinian struggle.

Another Israeli aim in Lebanon is the creation of a new religious state with the assistance of its allies all over the world. Simultaneously, Israel would initiate the beginnings of new divisions among the Arab states dividing states themselves into religious states or sheikhdoms. All this Israel is doing at the same time as she is trying to impress on the world the necessity for the existence of a Jewish state as haven for a religious minority.

**Q.** The Phalangists have received aid from Israel in the past, are they assisting Israel in this new wave of aggression?

The Phalangists in Lebanon are heavily supported by Israel with military arms, and ammunition as well as financial aid. As the right hand of Israel in Lebanon, they will not hesitate to prove their loyalty towards it and therefore will assist in any Israeli plans against the people of Lebanon. This, they are actually doing today.

**Q.** There are reports that Israel is using illegal weapons against the civilian population in south Lebanon. The use of such weapons; cluster bombs, napalm, F-15's and F-16's violates treaties between Israel and the U.S. Has any effort been made by the U.S. to stop this illegal use of weapons?

It is the duty of Lebanese and Palestinians alike to remind the good American citizens that the PLO has offi-



cially acknowledged Mr. Waldheim, the Secretary General of the UN, and effectively respected the decision, early this year, by stopping its operations against Israel from southern Lebanon. Despite this fact, the American made military jets and weapons, used by Israel, are still pouring into southern Lebanon.

We have heard little about official American steps taken towards Israel with regards to the use of such illegal weapons. Today, these F-15's, cluster bombs, etc., are still causing the death and destruction of Lebanese villages, killing hundreds of civilians.

**Q.** The LNM and the PLO have had a good relationship from the outset. Can you comment on that relationship today?

The relationship between the Lebanese National Movement and the PLO is the translation of the traditionally excellent relationship between the two peoples of Lebanon and Palestine.

We are facing our common enemy, together. We are fighting for our common freedom. We are suffering together and we will achieve victory together.

The unity between the two peoples under the leadership of the PLO and the LNM is the result of thousands of common martyrs who offered their souls and blood to assure Arab rights, liberation, unity and democracy.

**Q.** Can you give us a brief summary of the LNM, the groups it is compiled of and its structure?

The need for a solid front capable of leading a political and military confrontation

against Israel resulted in the formation of the Lebanese National Movement. The Lebanese National Movement is presided over by Mr. Waleed Jumblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party. There are six Vice Presidents and the Executive Committee, the daily leadership, is composed of thirteen members representing nine parties and four independent personalities. Heading the committee is Mr. Mohsen Ibrahim who is the Secretary-General.

The Central Political Council is composed of the Executive Committee besides eight other parties, organizations and independents. There are also eight major and three minor departments of Arab affairs.

In addition, the Lebanese National Movement established nine local councils in different areas of Lebanon but mainly in southern Lebanon. These councils take care of the daily needs of the inhabitants there, especially the social and health problems.

**Q.** What is the LNM role in Lebanon today?

The LNM, lead previously by the immortal leader, Kamal Jumblatt, is now trying hard to improve its position towards the Popular United Front. This is a major goal and we hope to reach it as soon as possible. However, we are taking into great consideration the seriousness of the common projects of Israel and the Phalangists against the unity of Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance. But, we are confident, victory will be ours.



## Deliberate Humiliation for the Sake of Humiliation

A remarkable account of the human rights violations and harassments imposed upon Palestinian civilians in the West Bank was recounted by Israel Shahak during his tour here of the U.S. Israel Shahak, of course, is the Chairman of the Human Rights League in Israel. An Israeli citizen born in 1933 in Warsaw, Poland, he currently teaches Organic Chemistry at Hebrew University. Ultimately, his dedication is to the fundamental human and civil rights of all peoples.

Before the creation of the state of Israel, Israel Shahak came to Palestine in 1945, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto and Bergen Belsen concentration camp. In 1970, he was elected Chairman of the Human Rights League. In that capacity, he presented testimony in U.S. Congressional hearings on the effects of Israeli occupation on the Palestinian population.

When Dr. Shahak makes his presentations at Congressional hearings or lectures at universities or speaks on a radio talk show; it becomes clear that there is a policy of maltreatment of all the population in the West Bank. This manifests itself in both beatings and brutality and a deliberate policy of humiliation.

At an informal lecture at American University this month, Dr. Shahak, gave examples of the newest forms of harassments perpetuated against the population in the West Bank. One such example is the issued order that specifically states that the colors of the Palestinian flag are forbidden to appear close together on any painting. At a Ramallah exhibit, one painting displayed flowers in the colors of the flag. Consequently, all the Galleries were closed. Then the Military authority entered the Galleries, pointed out the prohibited paintings and thereafter confiscated them. One such painting was of a girl laying on the ground with yellow flowers around her. Another painting of a dove was forbidden because part of the dove had the "kafeya" pattern on it. With a little imagination one can understand how the occupier's insecurities could lead to the confiscation of such paintings but the confiscation of one painting, of a rearing horse, sheds new light on the nature of extremists with which the Palestinian people are dealing.



*Dr. Shahak & Dr. Hanna Nasir at AAUG Convention.*

Other evidence of maltreatment manifests itself in the collective punishment inflicted in recent months on Birzeit University. On several occasions, students who are ordinarily commuters, were ordered off buses and told to sit on the road for six to eight hours. On another occasion, students were ordered to appear in Ramallah on a certain day, their identification cards were taken and they were ordered to stand without going to the restrooms for eight hours. Afterwards, parents were brought to see their children. This is evidence of deliberate humiliation for the sake of humiliation.

Midway through his discussion, Dr. Shahak stated that open discrimination legally exists in every aspect of life in Israel. In housing, non-Jews are forbidden to rent land for long periods of time and non-Jews are forbidden to purchase land all together.

When questioned about the nature of discrimination in a democratic society, he stated that democratic discrimination is even more dangerous than non-democratic discrimination. Furthermore, Dr. Shahak explained that it is the duty of every individual to explore the real scene and identify with the persecuted whose suffering is intense.

Another question directed at Dr. Shahak referred to the Black situation in the Israeli state. As he explained that Black Jews are denied the right to work and the right to buy homes or land because they are defined as non-Jews, Dr. Shahak, explained further that for fear Black children born in Israel would demand Israeli citizenship, no place of birth is written on the birth certificate of Black Jews.

One American gentlemen's question pertained to the true figures for emigration from Israel. Dr. Shahak replied that currently 850,000 people have left Israel, 100,000 have concrete plans to leave and 100,000 are thinking seriously about departing. Most of the emigration began six years ago and the figures are increasing. Ironically, a good percentage of Jews are immigrating to the U.S. but rather than assimilating, Israeli Jews are settling as new ethnic minorities. This has been the case in Los Angeles and New York, but in New York a social rift has developed between the Israeli Jew and the U.S. Jew to the point that U.S. Jews are calling Israeli Jews, "Hebrew speaking Puerto Ricans".

Meanwhile, the Israeli government is paying close attention to emigration, although official Israeli policy is to deny such emigration exists. Their pre-occupation with emigration shows in the serious consideration being given to abolishing the freedom to travel.

Dr. Shahak ended his discussion with an analysis of the current situation in the state of Israel. He feels the world community is witnessing the Israeli state undergoing a process of Nazification as has been witnessed previously in history. There is no contradiction between Facism and the conditions of free state, rather it was the conditions of free environment that provided havens for German Nazism and Italian facism.

## U.S. Academicians Condemn Israel

A group of eight American professors toured the West Bank on a fact-finding mission from November 25 through the 30th. The mission was prompted by renewed harassment of the educational institutions in the West Bank. The mission was prompted by renewed harassment of the educational institutions in the West Bank. The mission spent a week visiting three Universities at Birzeit, Nablus and Bethlehem. There, the group witnessed the shooting of Palestinian school children and provocation of students by Israeli soldiers.

Upon return to the U.S., the group held a press conference in New York City and there condemned Israeli repression and called on the U.S. government to cut aid to Israel. They also called upon teachers worldwide to unite in opposition to Order 854 which is the order that legalized Israeli harassments of the educational system. The group is planning to organize a campaign to persuade the U.S. government to urge Israel to repeal the order.

## More Students Shot

On November 25, two students from Nablus' Najah University were shot. Hatem Lubbat from Oaliqilya and Fakzi Qasem from Habale village near Nablus were both shot by Israeli soldiers and were later treated at Rafidiya hospital.

## Palestinian Exhibit at the U.N.

An exhibit of Palestinian art was presented at the United Nations by the Palestine Liberation Organization at the request of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people. The exhibit was held in commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO and the



*Palestine Exhibit at UN November 1980*

Ambassador of Senegal to the U.N. opened the exhibit which was attended by several Ambassadors and other prominent personalities.

This year's exhibit concentrated on two subjects: Jerusalem, because the UN Security Council passed resolution #476 on the Question of Jerusalem in May of 1980. The resolution overwhelmingly condemned Israel for declaring Jerusalem their eternal political capital. The Role of Women to Free their Land, Palestine, was the second topic. This was presented in commemoration of the International Year of the Woman.



*Mayors Milhem and Kawasmeh at Israeli court.*

## Re-Expulsion of Mayors

On December 5, Mayors Fahed Kawasmeh of Hebron and Mohammad

Milhem of Halhoul were deported for a second time by Israeli authorities. The two mayors were expelled to southern Lebanon after they spent a night at the border. At a news conference, the Palestinian mayors stated that the deportations contravened the Geneva Convention governing the conduct of Occupation authorities and added, "We will spare no effort to try to go back to our homes and families".

Lawyer Felicia Langer, commenting on the re-expulsion of her two clients said, "It is a very sad day. . . The decision shows that Israel is dominated by the military establishment which does not want Arabs to remain, especially peace-loving Palestinians". Lawyer Langer added that the re-expulsion brazenly ignored the three U.N. resolutions adopted unanimously which called on Israel to allow the mayors to return home.

## Chairman Arafat presents Palestinian Medal of Honor

In memoriam of the great Palestinian Poet, Abu-Salma, and in honor of his work and contributions to the Palestinian struggle, Chairman Arafat presented the Palestinian medal of honor to his son, Dr. Said Karmi, at a celebration in Beirut, Lebanon on December 7. A number of prominent Arab and Palestinian writers and poets attended the celebration and eulogized Abu-Salma.

In Washington, D.C. a memoriam was held in honor of the great poet at Georgetown University on November 19, sponsored by the Union of Palestinian Students.



*Chairman Arafat honoring the poet Abu Salma*



## Press Conference Held in Washington, D.C.

On December 11, the Palestine Information Office in Washington, D.C. held a press conference in which representatives from the Palestine Congress, the Palestine Solidarity Committee and Mary Gray from the group of American Academicians that recently toured the West Bank, participated. A result of rising tensions in the occupied territories, the participants concentrated on the increased Israeli infringements on Palestinian human rights in the West Bank.

At the conference, Mary Gray issued the following excerpted statement:

"... these repressive measures, which crystallize in Order no. 854, have brought about the opposite of what they were intended to achieve: far from order and submission, they have resulted in a renewal of Palestinian national consciousness and resistance, as the recent mass demonstrations show. . . . We ask that they be repealed immediately, and that academics from other countries and people of good will generally join us in denouncing these measures and in making them more widely known to world public opinion."



Dr. Mary Gray at Washington D.C. Press Conference.

## Bomb found in Palestine Information Office

An explosive device was found on the first floor of the building where the PIO in Washington, D.C. is located. It was planted there Monday, December 8 by a Zionist group called Hatikvah Leumi. They informed the UPI that they were responsible for the bomb when it did not explode as planned.

Fortunately it did not explode and police removed it early Thursday morning, December 11. If it had exploded, it would have damaged the office killing and wounding employees as well as others.

## Israeli Forces Meet Resistance at Damour

On December 3, Israeli forces launched a

major attack on the coastal area of Damour. The operation was met with stiff Palestinian resistance whereupon Israeli air and sea backup forces were called upon. The Israeli sea force shelled the Palestinian coastal towns in order to aid land forces to withdraw with minimum casualties. The battle lasted an hour and a half and Israeli forces withdrew with significant casualties. Two fighters were martyred from the Palestinian resistance, and other losses included 2 civilian cars destroyed, 4 civilians killed and 2 injured.

## Media Crews Harassed by Israelis

Due to increased tensions in the Occupied territories, western media sent crews to cover incidents as they occurred. Consequently, Israeli policemen began harassing various crews in an attempt to discourage coverage. On December 8, Israeli policemen detained UPI photographer, Michael Theiler seizing a roll of his film, and preventing him from covering disturbances at Bethlehem University. Thereafter, an ABC news television crew was detained at a roadblock outside Bethlehem and military policemen confiscated two film cassettes from them.

In addition, an Israeli soldier fired a tear gas canister at one of CBS's camera crews. A videotape cassette was taken from a recorder, as well.

West German Press Agency also reported that troops took a cassette from a crew member's pocket and confiscated his notes after keeping him in a police station for 7 hours.

All of the networks involved lodged complaints against the Israeli government.



General Saad Shazli at AAUG convention

## AAUG Opens Convention in Boston

On November 21, the thirteenth annual Convention of the Association of ArabAmerican University Graduates opened in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Palestinian issue was emphasized in the AAUG agenda with special concern given to the problems of Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank. Among the speakers were Dr. Hanna Nasir, President of Birzeit University, Dr. Israel Shahak, head of the Israeli League for

Human and Civil Rights and General Shazli, one of President Sadat's most vehement opponents. Over one thousand individuals attended the Conference.

## Arab League Asks EEC to Officially Recognize PLO

On November 12, the Arab League asked that the nine ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) officially recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization at an EEC-Arab League summit scheduled for next summer.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day session here preparing for the conference, PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidiqi ad-Dajani, leading the Arab delegation, pointed out that the PLO was a full member of the league and played an active role in Euro-Arab dialogue.

He said the Palestinian problem was the central issue to this dialogue, interrupted in May last year when Egypt signed the Camp David peace with Israel, and should be the focal point of the conference.

The PLO official described the Camp David agreements as a dismal failure. He said that they had only aggravated the situation in the Middle East, citing recent Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and "aggression on the Palestinian people" of the occupied West Bank.

Mr. ad-Dajani told the meeting that the Arab League was in Luxembourg to study the best ways to stimulate dialogue with Europe, adding that this decision was part of concerted Arab policy.

He added that the PLO had greeted with satisfaction a recent meeting of PLO leader Yasir Arafat with Luxembourg Foreign Minister Gaston Thorn, due to take over as EEC commissioner early next year.

## November 29 Celebrated Around the World

On November 29, Palestine Day demonstrations were organized throughout the West Bank. November 29 marks the 33rd anniversary of the partition of Palestine. In Beirut, a mass rally was organized with top PLO officials attending. Throughout the world, similar demonstrations and rallies were organized from Paris to New York.

In New York City, a large rally was held by the Palestine Congress and was attended by American support groups. Members of the UN delegation spoke. In San Francisco, a large rally was organized by the Union of Palestinian Students and was attended by Third World supporters, American friends and anti-Zionist Jews. In Texas, Michigan, Illinois and other states similar rallies were held expressing support for the Palestinian people.

## Ziad Abu Eain on Strike

(Excerpts from letter written by Jim Zoghby)

Last night at 9:00 p.m., I spoke with Ziad Abu Eain. He had been placed in solitary confinement ("the hole") for 23 hours a day. He was released for one hour and allowed to call.

Ziad has gone on strike. He refuses to do prison work and to wear prison clothes. He feels that to force him to do both adds insult to injury, since he is not a criminal and is literally being held hostage while the State Department plays politics with his case.

Ziad has been in prison for almost 16 months. There is no evidence sufficient to warrant his imprisonment. We must insist that Ziad be freed on bail. At the very least, he must not be required to do prison work while being held so unjustly.

As he left the phone to return to "the hole", Ziad said to me,

"Thank the PHRC supporters for their birthday cards. Now that I'm in "the hole" they won't let me receive any more mail or respond. Thank them for me. . . . And tell them to keep supporting me. If we are together, we will be strong."

\* \* \*

Each Christmas season since 1977 the PHRC has asked its supporters to make a special effort on behalf of a particular.

WRITE: Warden  
Metro Correction Facility  
71 Van Buren  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

## Literature and Resources

Video Cassette on the Palestinian Children's Folk Troupe, 30 minutes of Palestinian Song & Dance . . . \$35.00  
Colorful Christmas Cards from the Palestine Liberation Organization . . . \$50 each  
Palestine's Poet — Abu Salma (in English & Arabic) . . . \$1.00 each  
H.I. Hussaini, *The Palestine Problem: An Annotated bibliography, 1967-80* . . . \$2.00  
James Zogby & Jack O'dell (ed.) *Afro-Americans Stand Up for Middle East Peace* . . . \$2.00  
Palestine Information Office, The PLO:

## A Brief Survey

Documents & Statements, 1979 . . . \$1.00  
National Lawyers Guild 1977 Middle East Delegation, Treatment of Palestinians in Israeli-Occupied West Bank and Gaza . . . \$4.50  
Abdul Wahab Al-Messeri (editor) *A lover from Palestine and other Poems* . . . \$3.00  
Fawaz Turki, *Tal Zaatar was the Hill of Thyme* (poems) . . . \$4.00  
Fawaz Turki, *The Disinherited: Journal of a Palestinian Exile* . . . \$4.00  
Free Palestine, *Tal al Zaatar; The Fight Against Fascism* . . . \$4.00  
Hatem Hussaini (ed.) *Towards Peace in Palestine* . . . \$1.00

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**palestine  
perspectives**

DEC. 1980 VOL. III, NO. 8

A  
Monthly  
Magazine  
published  
by

PALESTINE INFORMATION OFFICE  
P.O. Box 57042  
Washington, D.C. 20037

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Brentwood, MD  
Permit No. 3039